

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) 13 mercy petitions for commutation of death sentences under Article 72 of the Constitution were received during the last three years.

(b) Details are provided in the attached *statement*.

Statement

S.No. Name of the Prisoner

1. Dhananjoy Chatterjee,
Central Prison Alipore,
Calcutta, West Bengal.
2. Laxman Nayak,
Circle Jail Barpada,
Orissa.
3. Bheru Singh,
Central Prison, Jaipur,
Rajasthan.
4. Shankar alias Gauri Shankar,
Central Prison, Salem,
Tamil Nadu.
5. Eldin alias Albert,
Central Prison, Madurai,
Tamil Nadu.
6. Suresh Chandra Bahri,
Central Jail, Bhagalpur,
Bihar.
7. Amrutlal Someshwar Joshi,
Yervada Central Prison,
Pune, Maharashtra.
8. Ravji @ Ram Chander,
Central Prison, Indore,
Rajasthan.
9. Uma Shankar s/o Bheru Lal
Central Prison Indore,
Madhya Pradesh.
10. Gantela Vijayavaradhanarao,
Rajahmundry Central Prison,
Andhra Pradesh.
11. Sathuluri Chalapathi Rao,
Rajahmundry Central Prison,
Andhra Pradesh.
12. Kamta Tewari,
Central Prison Jabalpur,
Madhya Pradesh.
13. Surja Ram,
Central Prison Jaipur,
Rajasthan.

Industrial Co-operatives of SC/ST Communities

2491. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated schemes to encourage the industrial cooperative ventures of SC/ST communities for their economic emancipation;

(b) if so, the details thereof with financial allocation available to Maharashtra under these schemes during the current year, schemewise;

(c) details of projects cleared and under consideration so far; and

(d) the steps being taken to clear them?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (d) The Government have established National Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribe Finance and Development Corporation under Section 25 (Not for Profit) of the Companies Act, 1956, on 8th February, 1989 with the objective to extend highly concessional financial assistance to SCs and STs having income below double the poverty line for income generating schemes. The loan is extended to individual SC/STs below double the poverty line, partnership firms, joint individuals and cooperative societies where all the members belong to SC/ST commodity and are also below double the poverty line. The Cooperative Societies include industrial cooperative ventures also. So far as the State of Maharashtra is concerned, industrial cooperative projects with a project cost of Rs. 130.80 lakhs have been sanctioned. So far as the current year is concerned, no proposal of industrial cooperative was received. Therefore, in the current year no project has been sanctioned. No proposal of any industrial cooperative from the State of Maharashtra is pending for approval.

Liquidity crisis of Sugar Mills

2492. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the other measures taken by the Government to solve the liquidity crisis faced by the sugar mills apart from increase in sugar buffer stock, encouraging its export and higher allocation for the Public Distribution System; and

(b) the net effect of those measures?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) The zonal ex-factory prices of levy sugar for the 1996-97 season have been revised on 12.2.1997 and are retrospectively effective from 1.10.1996. The sugar mills have been allowed to pack sugar in consumer packs of 1, 2 & 5 kgs. thereby improving their returns on the average ex-factory prices by way of direct